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### **Insurance Department Releases Annual Report on Health Insurance Costs**

**CONCORD, NH** – The New Hampshire Insurance Department today released its annual report on health insurance costs in the state.

“The health care system is complex, and our report helps to synthesize what is going on in the New Hampshire health insurance marketplace,” said New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. “Understanding what is affecting insurance markets and the healthcare delivery system can help policymakers, consumers, and all stakeholders make good decisions to help contain escalating costs.”

The report analyzes 2015 data from health insurance companies operating in the state. Findings include:

- Pharmacy costs increased almost 9 percent and comprised 19 percent of all medical costs.
- The number of residents without health insurance decreased, from 120,000 (9 percent) in 2014 to 83,000 (6 percent) in 2015
- The individual market grew from 52,000 members as of December 2014 to 107,000 in April 2016, largely due to the NH Premium Assistance Program (NH PAP).
- The individual market now represents 38 percent of the total number insured lives in New Hampshire.
  - 46 percent of individual market members received their coverage through the exchange
  - 37 percent were part of the NH PAP
  - 17 percent obtained their individual coverage outside of the exchange
- Average premium increases were under 2 percent in 2015.

The full report is available on the Insurance Department’s website:

<http://www.nh.gov/insurance/reports/documents/nhid-2015-medical-cost-drivers-final-report.pdf>

A supplemental fact sheet also is available online:

<http://www.nh.gov/insurance/reports/documents/nhid-2015-medical-cost-drivers-fact-sheet.pdf>

State law requires the insurance commissioner to “hold an annual public hearing concerning premium rates in the health insurance market and the factors, including health care costs and cost trends that have contributed to rate increases during the prior year.” A preliminary version of the report was presented and discussed at the Insurance Department’s 2016 annual hearing on premium rates, which took place November 4 in Concord. More information:

<http://www.nh.gov/insurance/media/events/2016-annual-hearing.htm>

### **The New Hampshire Insurance Department Can Help**

Contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your insurance coverage at 1-800-852-3416 or (603) 271-2261, or by email at [consumerservices@ins.nh.gov](mailto:consumerservices@ins.nh.gov).

The New Hampshire Insurance Department's mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance).

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